

Today's News - Monday, February 23, 2009

- ArcSpace takes us to UNStudio's theater in Graz.
- Design will be critical to get cities "out of the social, ecological and economic mess we're in."
- Q&A with "Boris's brain," a.k.a. London's planning guru ("at least his boss is a laugh").
- Bayley on the extreme possibilities presented by Passivhaus and revolving towers: "a solemn fugue or a drunken samba."
- Kamin finds "skill and artistry" in a new Chicago tower for senior living
- The best way to achieve sustainable office space: "think twice about designing any new office buildings," says Frank Duffy.
- Small is beautiful + Heathcote's favorite mini-boxes.
- Davidson cheers two architects who offer "far more than lip service" to affordable housing: "pinched budgets need not translate into poverty of imagination."
- Harvard students + BMW's "cloth car" = coastal houses that can rise and fall with the tides.
- Hume cheers new home of University of Toronto's economics department: "a minor architectural marvel, an object lesson in how to make a little go a long way."
- Heathcote sits down with the architect who had a hand in transforming London's two Vics.
- SANAA tapped to design this year's Serpentine.
- A 1% solution has San Francisco's Uptown Tenderloin History Museum on track.
- A call to preserve architectural heritage in Lagos.
- Ito leads donations to Australia bushfire recovery; other architects rally as well.
- Armani's 5th Avenue megastore by Fuksas: NYC's "second Guggenheim"(?!).
- More on Venturi's Lieb House saga.
- Call for entries: EPA's 8th Annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement.
- We couldn't resist: Atlantis is found! (well...probably not...)

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UNStudio: MUMUTH Music Theatre, Graz, Austria

Design a key factor in cities, expert says: Review of city plan touted as opportunity for Ottawa to act wisely...will be critical to get cities "out of the social, ecological and economic mess we're in...I don't think the political leadership has picked up on it, but the population has." -- David Witty- Ottawa Citizen (Canada)

Boris' brain: Sir Simon Milton interview: As the London mayor's chief of staff and planning guru, [he] has a lot on his plate: skirmishes over Crossrail, affordable homes targets, improving design quality, the recession ... Still, at least his boss is a laugh- Building (UK)

Revolving buildings: the new shape of things: Darmstadt and Dubai present the extreme possibilities of contemporary living...a solemn fugue or a drunken samba. By Stephen Bayley -- Passivhaus Institut; Bere Architects; Dynamic Group- Observer (UK)

The latest new wrinkle in tall buildings: A skyscraper for seniors...The Clare at Water Tower...it took an architect with the skill and artistry...to ensure that this 54-story high-rise would nestle so deftly into the cityscape and provide a humane environment for its residents... By Blair Kamin -- Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will; Interior Design Associates [slide show]- Chicago Tribune

Op-Ed: Do we need the office anymore? New ways of working...should create new office architecture...The biggest opportunity in achieving sustainable office space is not for architects to specify more environmentally efficient facades, but to think twice about designing any new office buildings. By Frank Duffy- NY Newsday

Small but perfectly formed: Big is losing some of its sheen while small is being rebranded as the home for our times + Edwin Heathcote's favorite miniboxes. -- Gregory Paul Johnson/Small House Society; Sarah Susanka; Azby Brown; Takaharu Tezuka; Eva Prats/Ricardo Flores; Marianne Cusato; Horden Cherry Lee- Financial Times (UK)

Low-Income? You're Kidding! Two architects offer far more than lip service to affordable housing...in their quiet, pragmatic way, they prove what the marriage of philanthropy and government can achieve and demonstrate that pinched budgets need not translate into poverty of imagination. By Justin Davidson -- Alexander Gorlin; Susan T. Rodriguez/Polshak Partnership- New York Magazine

The shapes of homes to come: Harvard students create flexible living spaces inspired by BMW's 'cloth car'...The result: Coastal houses that can move up and down above flood tides, rooms that fold up when not in use, and roofs that change shape to take advantage of sunlight. -- Frank Barkow; RMJM [image]- Boston Globe

Victorian grace finds happiness with plate steel: ...University of Toronto economics department, Max Gluskin House...is a minor architectural marvel, an object lesson in how to make a little go a long way. By Christopher Hume -- Hariri Pontarini Architects- Toronto Star

Transforming performance spaces: London's two Vics, the Young and the Old, theatres separated by a couple of hundred yards and about a century and a half, have both recently undergone fundamental physical change, and architect Andrew Todd had a hand in both. By Edwin Heathcote- Financial Times (UK)

Sejima and Nishizawa of SANAA to design Serpentine Pavilion: ...will be the practice's first structure to be built in England.- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Uptown Tenderloin History Museum: Reclaiming San Francisco's Forgotten Past: As a result of a generous grant from the Fifth Age of Man Foundation and the donated services the Museum is on track to open by 2011-12. -- Perkins+Will; West Office Exhibition Design; Public Architecture 1%- Beyond Chron (San Francisco)

Old, strong and still beautiful: ...concern about the lack of preservation of historical buildings on Lagos Island..."We need to preserve these buildings and people need to learn how to start building in this climate." -- Alan Vaughan-Richards; John

[Godwin- 234NEXT \(Lagos, Nigeria\)](#)

[Toyo Ito leads donations to Australia bushfire recovery: Japanese star architect boosted fundraising efforts to help victims of the bushfires in Victoria, south Australia, which have left more than 180 dead and 7,000 homeless. -- Suzette Jackson/Hassel; Norman Day- BD/Building Design \(UK\)](#)

[Armani opens Manhattan megastore on New York's Fifth Avenue: Bloomberg calls building 'a second Guggenheim' -- Massimiliano and Doriana Fuksas - ANSA \(Italy\)](#)

[Saving an architectural 'sibling': A Glen Cove couple hope to move a home from N.J. to join one by the same designer..."I think it's a perfect fit, provided it makes it here alive." -- Robert Venturi; Frederic Schwartz - NY Newsday](#)

[Call for entries: 8th Annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement; open to public- and private-sector entities; deadline: April 23- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)

[Atlantis site 'found'... on Google Earth: Engineer claims to have found layout of mythical lost city using web tool – but Google says it is "sonar data" - Building \(UK\)](#)

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